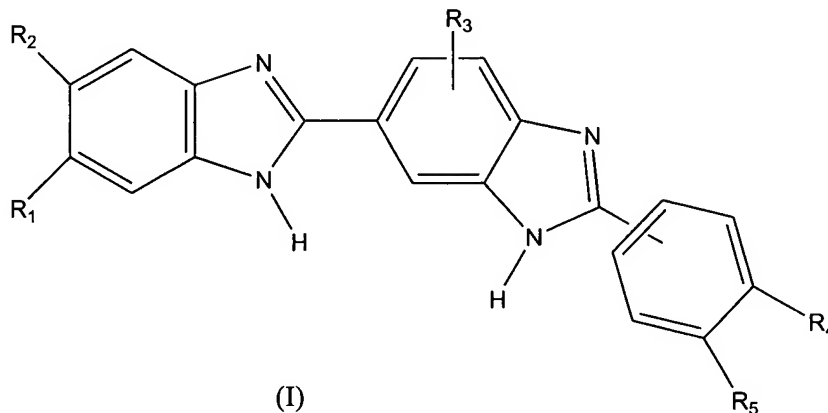


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A therapeutic method comprising inhibiting cancer cells by administering to a mammal in need of such therapy, an amount of a compound of formula I:



wherein:

R₁ and R₂ are each independently hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, halo, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkanoyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl; or R₁ and R₂ taken together are methylenedioxy; or R₁ and R₂ taken together with the atoms to which they are attached are benzo; wherein any aryl, heteroaryl, or benzo may optionally be substituted by 1, 2, or 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkanoyloxy, and halo;

R₃ is hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkanoyloxy, or halo; and

R₄ and R₅ taken together are a 3, 4, or 5 membered saturated or unsaturated chain comprising members selected from the group consisting of non-peroxide oxygen, sulfur, N(X), and carbon, optionally substituted by oxo; wherein each X is independently absent or is H, O,

(C₁-C₆)alkyl, phenyl or benzyl; and wherein at least one of said chain members is an N-H group; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

provided R₄ and R₅ taken together are not -N(H)-C(H)=N-;
effective to inhibit said cancer cells.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R₁ is hydrogen, halo, aryl or heteroaryl; wherein any aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be substituted by 1, 2, or 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, and halo.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R₂ is hydrogen, halo, aryl or heteroaryl; wherein any aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be substituted by 1, 2, or 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkanoyloxy, and halo.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R₁ and R₂ taken together are methylenedioxy.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R₁ and R₂ taken together are benzo, which benzo is optionally substituted by 1, 2, or 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkanoyloxy, and halo.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R₃ is hydrogen.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R₃ is (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkanoyloxy, or halo.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R₄ and R₅ taken together are -N(H)-N=N-, -N(H)-N(H)-CH₂-, -N(H)-N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-N(H)-, -N(H)-CH=CH-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-, -N(H)CH₂-CH₂-O-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-S-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-, N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-S-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-S-CH₂-, -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-CH₂-, -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(H)-, -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-O-, -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-S-, -N(H)-C(=O)-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-N(H)-C(=O)-, -CH₂-S-CH₂-N(H)-, -CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-S-, -CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-, -CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-O-, or -CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-S-.

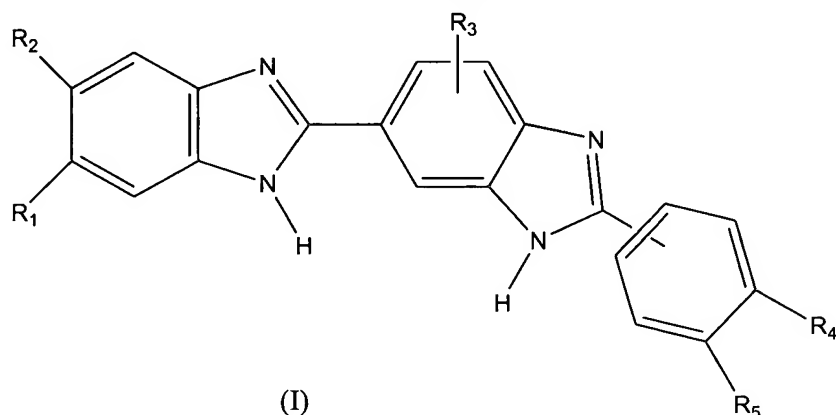
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R₄ and R₅ taken together are -N(H)-N=N-, -N(H)-CH₂-N(H)-, -N(H)-CH=CH-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-O-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-S-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-S-, or -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(H)-.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein R₄ and R₅ taken together are -N(H)-N=N-, ~~-N(H)-C(=O)-N(H)-~~, ~~-N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(H)-~~, -N(H)-CH=CH-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, or -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R₄ and R₅ taken together are -N(H)-N=N- or -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(H)-.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R₁ and R₂ are not both hydrogen.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently halo.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein R_1 and R_2 are each bromo.
15. (Original) A method comprising inhibiting cancer cells by contacting said cancer cells with an effective amount of a compound of formula I:



wherein:

R_1 and R_2 are each independently hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_3-C_6) cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, halo (C_1-C_6) alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, halo, (C_3-C_6) cycloalkyl (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkanoyl, hydroxy (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, (C_2-C_6) alkanoyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl; or R_1 and R_2 taken together with the atoms to which they are attached are benzo; wherein any aryl, heteroaryl, or benzo may optionally be substituted by 1, 2, or 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_3-C_6) cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, halo (C_1-C_6) alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, (C_3-C_6) cycloalkyl (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkanoyl, hydroxy (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, (C_2-C_6) alkanoyloxy, and halo;

R_3 is hydrogen (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_3-C_6) cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, nitro, hydroxy, halo (C_1-C_6) alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, (C_3-C_6) cycloalkyl (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkanoyl, hydroxy (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, (C_2-C_6) alkanoyloxy, or halo; and

R_4 and R_5 taken together are a 3, 4, or 5 membered saturated or unsaturated chain comprising members selected from the group consisting of non-peroxide oxygen, sulfur, N(X), and carbon, optionally substituted by oxo; wherein each X is independently absent or is H, O,

(C₁-C₆)alkyl, phenyl or benzyl; and wherein at least one of said chain members if an N-H group; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

provided R₄ and R₅ taken together are not -N(H)-C(H)=N-.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₁ is hydrogen, halo, aryl or heteroaryl; wherein any aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be substituted by 1, 2, or 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, hydroxy, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, and halo.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₂ is hydrogen, halo, aryl or heteroaryl; wherein any aryl or heteroaryl may optionally be substituted by 1, 2, or 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkanoyloxy, and halo.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₁ and R₂ taken together are methylenedioxy.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₁ and R₂ taken together are benzo, which benzo is optionally substituted 1, 2, or 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, hydroxyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkanoyloxy, and halo.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₃ is hydrogen.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₃ is (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, nitro, hydroxy, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, trifluoromethoxy, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, (C₂-C₆)alkanoyloxy, or halo.

22. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₄ and R₅ taken together are -N(H)-N=N-, -N(H)-N(H)-CH₂-, -N(H)-N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-N(H)-, -N(H)-CH=CH-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-O-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-S-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-S-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-S-CH₂-, -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-CH₂-, -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(H)-, -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-O-, -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-S-, -N(H)-C(=O)-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-N(H)-C(=O)-, -CH₂-S-CH₂-N(H)-, -CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-S-, -CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-, -CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-O-, or -CH₂-N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-S-.

23. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₄ and R₅ taken together are -N(H)-N=N-, -N(H)-CH₂-N(H)-, -N(H)-CH=CH-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-O-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-S-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-S-, or -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(H)-.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein R₄ and R₅ taken together are -N(H)-N=N-, ~~-N(H)-C(=O)-N(H)-~~, -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(H)-, -N(H)-CH=CH-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-, -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-, or -N(H)-CH₂-CH₂-N(H)-.

25. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₄ and R₅ are taken together are -N(H)-N=N- or -N(H)-C(=O)-C(=O)-N(H)-.

26. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₁ and R₂ are not both hydrogen.

27. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₁ and R₂ are each independently halo.

28. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein R₁ and R₂ are each bromo.